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EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/237,896

Applicant(s)

OTSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-16,19,21-29 and 31-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 38-46 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-8,11-16,19,21-29 and 31-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/3/03 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. Applicant's amendment was received on 5/5/03, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-3, 6-16, 19, 21-29, and 31-46** are pending, with **claims 38-46** being withdrawn from consideration, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 1** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

4. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement, previously submitted on 1/27/99, have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

***Claim Objections***

5. **Claim 33** is objected to because of the following informalities:

In **claim 33**, line 5, “massage” should read “message”.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. **Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25-27, 31, and 32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogata (U.S. Patent Number 5,283,665).

Regarding **claim 1**, Ogata discloses a facsimile device (see abstract, and Figs. 1 and 2) including an image data memory for storing image data (image memory 106 and 206), a plurality of memory boxes provided in the image data memory (see Figs. 1 and 2), each of the memory boxes being accompanied with a predetermined box number and storing first image data therein (column 9, lines 48 through 66), a detection device for detecting a transfer command arrived to the facsimile device (column 10, lines 33 through 44), the transfer command specifying a memory box in accordance with the box number and instructing transfer of the first image data stored in the specified memory box to a calling side (column 13, lines 8 through 24), a judgement device for judging whether or not the memory box specified by the transfer command using the box number detected by the detection device is effective (step S629, column 10, lines

Art Unit: 2622

38 through 68, and step S655, column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 11), and an image transfer device for transferring the first image data stored in the specified by the transfer command is effective (“yes” in step S629, being steps S630-S632, and “yes” in step S655, being steps S656-S658), and alternatively for transferring second image data different from the first image data to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective (“no” in step S629, being step S634, or “no” in step S655, being step S659, column 10, lines 61 through 68, and column 13, line 8 through column 14, line 11), wherein the memory box includes plurality of confidential boxes and bulletin board boxes (see Figs. 1 and 2), and wherein each of the confidential boxes is accompanied with the box number and an identification number (column 1, lines 19 through 45, and column 10, lines 38 through 68, and column 13, lines 42 through 62), and each of the bulletin board boxes is accompanied with only the box number (column 1, lines 19 through 45, and column 14, lines 31 through 34).

Regarding *claim 2*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the judgement device judges whether or not the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command exists (see Figs. 12B and 14C, steps S627-S629 and S653-S655) and judges that designation of the memory box specified by the transfer command is effective when the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command exists (“yes” at steps S629 and S655) and that the designation of the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective when the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command does not exist (“no” at steps S629 and S655, column 10, lines 35 through 68, and column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 11).

Regarding **claim 3**, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 2, and further teaches that the judgement device judges that the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command does not exist, the image transfer device transfers the second image data to the calling side (step S634 in Fig. 12B, and step S659 in Fig. 14C, column 10, lines 61 through 68, and column 13, line 8 through column 14, line 11).

Regarding **claim 6**, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the transfer command includes information of the box number and the identification number corresponding to the confidential box and a telephone number of the calling side (column 13, lines 42 through 62), and information of the box number corresponding to the bulletin board box and a telephone number of the calling side (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 34).

Regarding **claim 7**, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that the judgement device judges whether or not the identification number assigned to the confidential box coincides with the identification number included in the transfer command when the box number specified by the transfer command coincides with the box number of the confidential box (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 11).

Regarding **claim 8**, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 7, and further teaches that the image transfer device transfers the second image data to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the identification number assigned to the confidential box does not coincide with the identification number included in the transfer command (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 11).

Regarding *claim 11*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the judgement device judges that the memory box accompanied with the box number specified by the transfer command stores no image data, the image transfer device transfers the second image data to the calling side (column 14, lines 1 through 30).

Regarding *claim 15*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 2, and further teaches that the second image data is stored in a memory box specified by advance from among the memory boxes, the image transfer device transfers the second image data stored in the specified memory box to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the designation of memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective (column 14, lines 1 through 17, which would inherently be stored in a memory area or “box”).

Regarding *claim 16*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that the image transfer device transfers the second image data stored in the specified memory box to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command does not exist (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 30).

Regarding *claim 19*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that the transfer command includes information of the box number and the identification number corresponding to the confidential box and a telephone number of the calling side, and information of the box number corresponding to the bulletin board box and a telephone number of the calling side (column 13, lines 42 through 62).

Regarding *claim 21*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 19, and further teaches that the image transfer device transfers the second image data stored in the specified

Art Unit: 2622

memory box to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the identification number assigned to the confidential box does not coincide with the identification number included in the transfer command (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 12).

Regarding *claim 22*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that when the judgement device judges that the memory box accompanied with the box number specified by the transfer command stores no image data, the image transfer device transfers the second image data stored in the specified memory box to the calling side (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 12).

Regarding *claim 25*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that the specified memory box is set to one of the bulletin board boxes (column 14, lines 18 through 34).

Regarding *claim 26*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 2, and further teaches of a message data memory for storing in advance a plurality of message data (being the “denial or permission to print-out”, or the “advance notice of confidential mail transmission” messages, inherently stored in a memory), a transfer data setting device for choosing a first message data from the message data memory (being part of the communication control program, column 5, lines 50 through 61), the first message data indicating that designation of the memory box number is ineffective (column 14, lines 1 through 11), when the judgement judges that the designation of the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective, and for setting transfer data in accordance with the chosen first message data (column 13, lines 42 through column 14, line 17).



Art Unit: 2622

Regarding *claim 27*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 26, and further teaches that the image transfer device transfers to the calling side the transfer data corresponding to the first message data set by the transfer data setting device (column 14, lines 1 through 17).

Regarding *claim 31*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 26, and further teaches that the transfer command includes information of the box number and the identification number corresponding to the confidential box and a telephone number of the calling side, and information of the box number corresponding to the bulletin board box and a telephone number of the calling side (column 13, lines 42 through 62).

Regarding *claim 32*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 31, and further teaches that the judgement device judges whether or not the identification number assigned to the confidential box coincides with the identification number included in the transfer command when the box number specified by the transfer command coincides with the box number of the confidential box (column 13, line 42 through column 14, line 17).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 12-14, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 33-37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogata (U.S. Patent Number 5,283,665) in view of Mori *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,727,050).

Regarding **claim 12**, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 1, but fails to particularly teach if the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual. Mori discloses a facsimile device (see abstract, and Fig. 1) including an image data memory for storing image data (image memory 18, column 3, lines 4 through 20), a plurality of memory boxes provided in the image data memory (mailboxes 18a/18b/..., column 3, lines 1 through 20, see Fig. 1), each of the memory boxes being accompanied with a predetermined box number and storing first image data therein (column 3, lines 16 through 20), a detection device for detecting a transfer command arrived to the facsimile device (column 6, lines 40 through 59), the transfer command specifying a memory box in accordance with the box number and instructing transfer of the first image data stored in the specified memory box to a calling side (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 4), a judgement device for judging whether or not the memory box specified by the transfer command using the box number detected by the detection device is effective (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 59), and an image transfer device for transferring the first image data stored in the specified by the transfer command is effective

Art Unit: 2622

(column 6, lines 46 through column 7, line 4), and alternatively for transferring second data different from the first image data to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective (column 7, lines 5 through 29), wherein the memory box includes plurality of confidential boxes and bulletin board boxes, and wherein each of the confidential boxes is accompanied with the box number and an identification number (column 3, lines 25 through 46), and each of the bulletin board boxes is accompanied with only the box number (column 7, lines 31 through 41). Further, Mori teaches that the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual (column 5, line 47 through column 6, line 21, and column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata, thereby having the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 13*, Ogata and Mori disclose the device discussed above in claim 12, and Mori further teaches that the data of the operation manual includes at least a method of specifying the box number and the identification number (column 5, line 47 through column 6, line 39, and column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata, thereby having the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings,

Art Unit: 2622

as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 14*, Ogata and Mori disclose the device discussed above in claim 13, and Mori further teaches that the data of the operation manual includes at least information registered in each of the memory boxes (see Fig. 4, column 5, line 47 through column 6, line 39, and column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata, thereby having the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 23*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 15, but fails to specifically teach if the second image data includes at least a method of specifying the box number and the identification number. Mori discloses a facsimile device (see abstract, and Fig. 1) including an image data memory for storing image data (image memory 18, column 3, lines 4 through 20), a plurality of memory boxes provided in the image data memory (mailboxes 18a/18b/..., column 3, lines 1 through 20, see Fig. 1), each of the memory boxes being accompanied with a predetermined box number and storing first image data therein (column 3, lines 16 through 20), a detection device for detecting a transfer command arrived to the facsimile device (column 6, lines 40 through 59), the transfer command specifying a memory box in accordance with the box number and instructing transfer of the first image data stored in the specified memory box to a calling side (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 4), a judgement

Art Unit: 2622

device for judging whether or not the memory box specified by the transfer command using the box number detected by the detection device is effective (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 59), and an image transfer device for transferring the first image data stored in the specified by the transfer command is effective (column 6, lines 46 through column 7, line 4), and alternatively for transferring second data different from the first image data to the calling side when the judgement device judges that the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective (column 7, lines 5 through 29), wherein the memory box includes plurality of confidential boxes and bulletin board boxes, and wherein each of the confidential boxes is accompanied with the box number and an identification number (column 3, lines 25 through 46), and each of the bulletin board boxes is accompanied with only the box number (column 7, lines 31 through 41). Further, Mori teaches that the second image data includes at least a method of specifying the box number and the identification number (column 5, line 47 through column 6, line 39, and column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata, thereby having the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 24*, Ogata and Mori disclose the device discussed above in claim 23, and Mori further teaches that the second image data includes at least information registered in each of the memory boxes (see Fig. 4, column 5, line 47 through column 6, line 39, and column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art

at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata, thereby having the second image data is image data indicating an operation manual. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 28*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 27, but is unclear if the transfer data setting device chooses a second message data from the message data memory when the judgement device judges that the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command does not exist, the second message data indicating that the memory box corresponding to the specified box number does not exist, and sets the transfer data in accordance with the chosen second message data, the image transfer device transfers the transfer data corresponding to the second message data set by the transfer data setting device to the calling side. Mori discloses a facsimile device (see abstract, and Fig. 1) including a message data memory for storing in advance a plurality of message data (being a message inherently stored in a memory, stating "The password is incorrect. If normal communication is sufficient, please press the asterisk (\*) key" or a message inherently stored in a memory stating that the passwords are not the same or no passwords have been entered, as read in column 5, lines 47 through 53, and column 7, lines 5 through 11), a transfer data setting device for choosing a first message data from the message data memory (being part of CPU 14), the first message data indicating that designation of the memory box number is ineffective (column 5, lines 47 through 53, column 7, lines 5 through 20), when the judgement judges that the designation of the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective, and for setting transfer data in accordance with the chosen first message data (column 7, lines 5 through 20).

Art Unit: 2622

Continuing, Mori teaches that the judgement device judges that the memory box corresponding to the box number specified by the transfer command does not exist, the transfer data setting device chooses a second message data from the message data memory, the second message data indicating that the memory box corresponding to the specified box number does not exist, and sets the transfer data in accordance with the chosen second message data, the image transfer device transfers the transfer data corresponding to the second message data set by the transfer data setting device to the calling side (column 5, line 47 through column 7, line 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 29*, Ogata and Mori disclose the device discussed above in claim 28, and Ogata further teaches that the memory box includes a plurality of confidential boxes and bulletin board boxes (see Figs. 1 and 2).

Regarding *claim 33*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 32, but is unclear if the image transfer data setting device chooses a third message data from the message data memory when the judgement device judges that the identification number assigned to the confidential box does not coincide with the identification number included in the transfer command, the third message indicating that the identification number assigned to the confidential box does not coincide with the identification number included in the transfer command, and sets the transfer data in accordance with the chosen third message data, and the image transfer device transfers the transfer data corresponding to the third message data set by

Art Unit: 2622

the transfer data setting device to the calling side. Mori discloses a device (discussed above in claim 28), and further teaches that when the judgement device judges that the identification number assigned to the confidential box does not coincide with the identification number included in the transfer command, the image transfer data setting device chooses a third message data from the message data memory, the third message indicating that the identification number assigned to the confidential box does not coincide with the identification number included in the transfer command, and sets the transfer data in accordance with the chosen third message data (column 5, line 47 through column 7, line 20), and the image transfer device transfers the transfer data corresponding to the third message data set by the transfer data setting device to the calling side (column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 34*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 26, but is unclear if the transfer data setting device chooses a fourth message data from the message data memory when the judgement device judges that the memory box accompanied with the box number specified by the transfer command stores no image data, the fourth message data indicating that the memory box of the box number specified by the transfer command stores no image data, and sets the transfer data in accordance with the chosen fourth message data, and the image transfer device transfers the transfer data corresponding to the fourth message data set by the transfer data setting device to the calling side. Mori discloses a device (discussed above in



Art Unit: 2622

claim 28), and further teaches that when the judgement device judges that the memory box accompanied with the box number specified by the transfer command stores no image data, the transfer data setting device chooses a fourth message data from the message data memory, the fourth message data indicating that the memory box of the box number specified by the transfer command stores no image data, and sets the transfer data in accordance with the chosen fourth message data (column 5, line 47 through column 7, line 20), and the image transfer device transfers the transfer data corresponding to the fourth message data set by the transfer data setting device to the calling side (column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 35*, Ogata discloses the device discussed above in claim 26, but fails to particularly teach if the first message data includes at least explanation of a specifying method of the box number. Mori discloses a facsimile device (see abstract, and Fig. 1) including a message data memory for storing in advance a plurality of message data (being a message inherently stored in a memory, stating "The password is incorrect. If normal communication is sufficient, please press the asterisk (\*) key" or a message inherently stored in a memory stating that the passwords are not the same or no passwords have been entered, as read in column 5, lines 47 through 53, and column 7, lines 5 through 11), a transfer data setting device for choosing a first message data from the message data memory (being part of CPU 14), the first message data indicating that designation of the memory box number is ineffective (column 5, lines 47 through

Art Unit: 2622

53, column 7, lines 5 through 20), when the judgement judges that the designation of the memory box specified by the transfer command is ineffective, and for setting transfer data in accordance with the chosen first message data (column 7, lines 5 through 20). Mori further teaches that the first message data includes at least explanation of a specifying method of the box number (column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 36*, Ogata and Mori disclose the device discussed above in claim 33, and Mori further teaches that the third message data includes at least explanation of a specifying method of the identification number (column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

Regarding *claim 37*, Ogata and Mori disclose the device discussed above in claim 34, and Mori further teaches that the fourth message data includes at least explanation of information registered in each of the memory boxes (column 7, lines 5 through 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Mori's teachings in the system of Ogata. Ogata's system would become more user-friendly with

Art Unit: 2622

the addition of Mori's teachings, as the user would be informed of a procedure of operation of the system, therein making the system easier to use.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

10. **Claims 9 and 10** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With respect to ***claim 9***, the examiner finds no teaching in the prior art that has a system with an effective number of digits of the box number for the confidential box being set to three, an effective number of the identification number for the confidential box being set to four, and an effective number of the box number for the bulletin board box being set to two.

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

**Fuller et al.** (U.S. Patent Number 5,224,156) discloses a facsimile system having a plurality of mailboxes.

Art Unit: 2622

***Conclusion***

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

J.P.P.

Joseph R. Pokrzywa  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2622

jrj  
August 5, 2003



EDWARD COLES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600